



December 21, 2020  
Via Google Meet  
1:00pm – 3:00pm

Kelly Schulz, Secretary, Department of Commerce, Chair  
Ken Holt, Secretary, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)  
Jimmy Rhee, Special Secretary, Governor's Office of Small Minority and Women Business Affairs (GOSBA)  
David McGlone, Assistant Secretary for Tiffany Robinson, Secretary, Department of Labor  
Ben Grumbles, Secretary, Department of Environment (MDE)  
Assistant Secretary Mark Crampton for Greg Slater, Secretary, Department of Transportation (MDOT)  
Robert McCord, Secretary, Department of Planning (MDP)  
Jim Fielder, Secretary, Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC)  
Michael Higgs, Director of Assessments & Taxation (SDAT)  
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR)  
Deputy Secretary Julie Oberg for Joe Bartenfelder, Secretary, Department of Agriculture (MDA)  
Wendi Peters, Special Secretary, Smart Growth

**Guests:**

Bill Doyle, Maryland port Administration  
Gretchen Hardman, Governor's Office of Intergovernmental Affair (GOIA)  
Deputy Secretary Horacio Tablada, MDE  
Deputy Secretary Sandy Schrader, MDP  
Allison Cordell, Governor's Office of Performance Improvement (GOPI)  
Kendrick Gordon, Governor's Office of Rural Broadband  
Kory Boone, SDAT  
Mike Pantelides, Labor  
Ann Gunning, Labor  
Jeffrey Smith, Labor  
Janice Walker-Emeogo, Labor  
Joe Griffiths, MDP  
Carrie Cook, DNR  
Owen McEvoy, DHCD  
Frank Dickson, DHCD

**Commerce Staff:**

Julie Woepke  
Kyle McColgan  
Brigitte Peters  
Andrew Sargent  
Wade Hearle  
Tom Riford  
Mike Siers  
Signe Pringle

## **I. Call to Order**

Secretary Schulz called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

## **I. Review and approval of October 19, 2020 Minutes**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the October 19, 2020 meeting were approved.

## **II. Chair Update**

Secretary Schulz provided an overview to date of the number of businesses and total funds expended from the Federal Coronavirus Act Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act by several State Agencies. She then provided an overview of the same from the Federal Small Business Administration (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and Economic Injury Disaster (EIDL) Programs. She continued by providing an overview of the extension of the CARES Act programs pending in Congress. Secretary Schulz then provided a breakdown on the programs funded by the Governor from the Rainy Day Fund in October and recently announced in December. She invited to the Subcabinet to review the Department's Annual report of which the Marketing Team created a video of highlights.

Secretary Schulz introduced Economist Michael Siers who presented an overview of the State's current economic climate. Mr. Siers reviewed the State's current unemployment rate of 6.8% highlighting the State's ranking by industry sector, illustrating that the State has led the country 1<sup>st</sup> in Health Care employment growth, 3<sup>rd</sup> in total nonfarm and total private employment, 6<sup>th</sup> in manufacturing, retail trade and accommodation and food services. Mr. Siers presented the status of unemployment benefits and discussed a number of factors tracked that will affect the economy. Factors included school re-openings, labor force exits, vaccine timeline, and additional Federal Stimulus funding and bankruptcy filings.

Secretary Schulz then introduced Assistant Secretary Tom Riford who presented the status of marketing and advertising campaigns, the Innovation Uncovered marketing program, and the contract with Abel Communications to perform a National Public Relations program. He continued by reporting on the Open for Tourism Marketing Campaign to encourage local travel and tourism, and the launching of a new tourism website which has received an increase of 40% traffic tear over year.

Secretary Schulz introduced Signe Pringle, Assistant Secretary who provided an update on major activity representing at least 25 new jobs. All presentations on file.

## **III. Maryland Port Administration (MPA) Update**

William "Bill" Doyle, Executive Director, MPA provided an update on the increasing traffic and activity at the Port. He emphasized eCommerce retail fulfillment continuously drives activity. Mr. Doyle noted the 35% increase in cargo, 28% increase in containers and overall 9% increase of business year over year based on October. He noted the 15% increase in roll on and roll off activity, noting the pandemic had increased the demand for consumer products. He also described the increase in number of containers, appliance and vehicles, reflecting even new businesses such as GE, Rite Aid and others arriving at the Port and the increase in exports, particularly to Africa.

Mr. Doyle continued by describing the schedule for the Howard Street Tunnel improvements noting the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Record of Decision is due the end of January 2021. He stated construction is anticipated to occur in late summer of 2021 with a completion date of 2024. He stated the tunnel improvements will significantly expand the port capabilities for transport. He concluded by describing the dredging to 50 feet and the notice to proceed with Port America.

#### **IV. Subcabinet Workgroups**

The Leaders of the five (5) Workgroups gave presentations: Customer Service, Job Creators, Workforce Development, Small Business, Regional Resources and SM3. The Regional Resources Team Leaders provided Updates and Opportunities Reports, Action Plans, and Narratives as applicable. Joe Griffiths of MDP presented on behalf of David Dahlstrom, Eastern Shore Leader who was unable to attend. Presentations and reports are on file.

#### **V. Good of the Order**

Secretary Schulz invited the Subcabinet to offer suggestions of future topics of interest to the Subcabinet. She then invited Frank Dickson of DHCD to provide an update on the Opportunity Zones and future perspective moving forward with the new Federal Administration. Presentation on file.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

There being no further discussion and upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.